

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 10 (Canceled).

1    **11.** (New) Semifinished product of composite material,  
2       consisting of a metallic matrix material (11) and of high  
3       tensile strength fibers (12) embedded in the matrix  
4       material (11), whereby the metallic matrix material (11) is  
5       formed of titanium or a titanium based alloy, characterized  
6       in that ceramic particles (13) are encased or embedded in  
7       the matrix material (11) for increasing the strength of the  
8       semifinished product with respect to torsional loading or  
9       transverse loading.

1    **12.** (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2       characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (13)  
3       comprise a size in the micron range to the nanometer range.

1    **13.** (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2       characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (13)  
3       are uniformly distributed in the matrix material (11).

1    **14.** (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2       characterized in that the embedded high tensile strength  
3       fibers (12) are silicon carbide fibers.

1 15. (New) Semifinished product according to claim 11,  
2 characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (23)  
3 are formed of titanium nitride.

1 16. (New) Method for the production of a semifinished product  
2 (10) of composite material, in which fibers (12) that are  
3 of high tensile strength as well as coated metallicity  
4 namely with titanium or a titanium based alloy are  
5 consolidated under the influence of pressure at high  
6 temperature to form the semifinished product (10),  
7 characterized in that in connection with the coating of the  
8 high tensile strength fibers (12) with titanium or the  
9 titanium based alloy, ceramic particles (13) are embedded  
10 in the coating of the fibers, whereby the thusly coated  
11 fibers are arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated  
12 to form the semifinished product.

1 17. (New) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that  
2 the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12) with  
3 titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out under  
4 a reactive atmosphere.

1 18. (New) Method according to claim 17, characterized in that  
2 the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12) with  
3 titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out under  
4 a nitrogen atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms together with  
5 titanium particles or particles of the titanium based alloy  
6 deposit ceramic particles (13) into the coating.

1     **19.**   (New) Method according to claim 18, characterized in that  
2           ceramic particles (13) in the form of titanium nitrides are  
3           deposited into the coating.

1     **20.**   (New) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that  
2           the coating is carried out as PVD coating, preferably as  
3           sputtering.

**[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]**